

# Situation Update #79- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 11 - 17 October 2021 (EPI Week 41)

**HIGHLIGHTS** (Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 17 October 2021 and same data published in EDCC Report as of 18 October 2021)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 97.1% (781,456) of cases have recovered and 1.5% (12,297) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 91.7% (11,278) cases are in home isolation; 8.3% (1,019) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 2.4% (299) of active cases require ICU admission, 32.8% (98) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Five districts reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (2,839) reported this week, 32.7% (929) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district with 9.4% (268). Majority of the new cases [about 46.8% (1,330)] have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.

- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 14 October 2021, 14:00Hrs)

ChAdOx1-S*	SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)	Johnson and Johnson Vaccine
First dose : 2,828,199	First dose : 5,560,203	Single Dose : 1,538,217
Second dose : 1,553,396	Second dose : 3,377,546	

\* COVISHIELD (manufactured by Serum Institute of India), Japanese-made COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine, Swedish AstraZeneca vaccine

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

#### NEPAL

(Data as of 18 October 2021, 07:00:00hrs)

**805,037 (RT-PCR) and  
93,362 (Antigen RDT)  
confirmed cases  
11,284 deaths  
4,320,824 RT-PCR tests and  
631,260 Antigen RDT**

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 17 October 2021)

**43,584,700 confirmed cases  
684,604 deaths**

#### GLOBAL

(Data as of 17 October 2021)

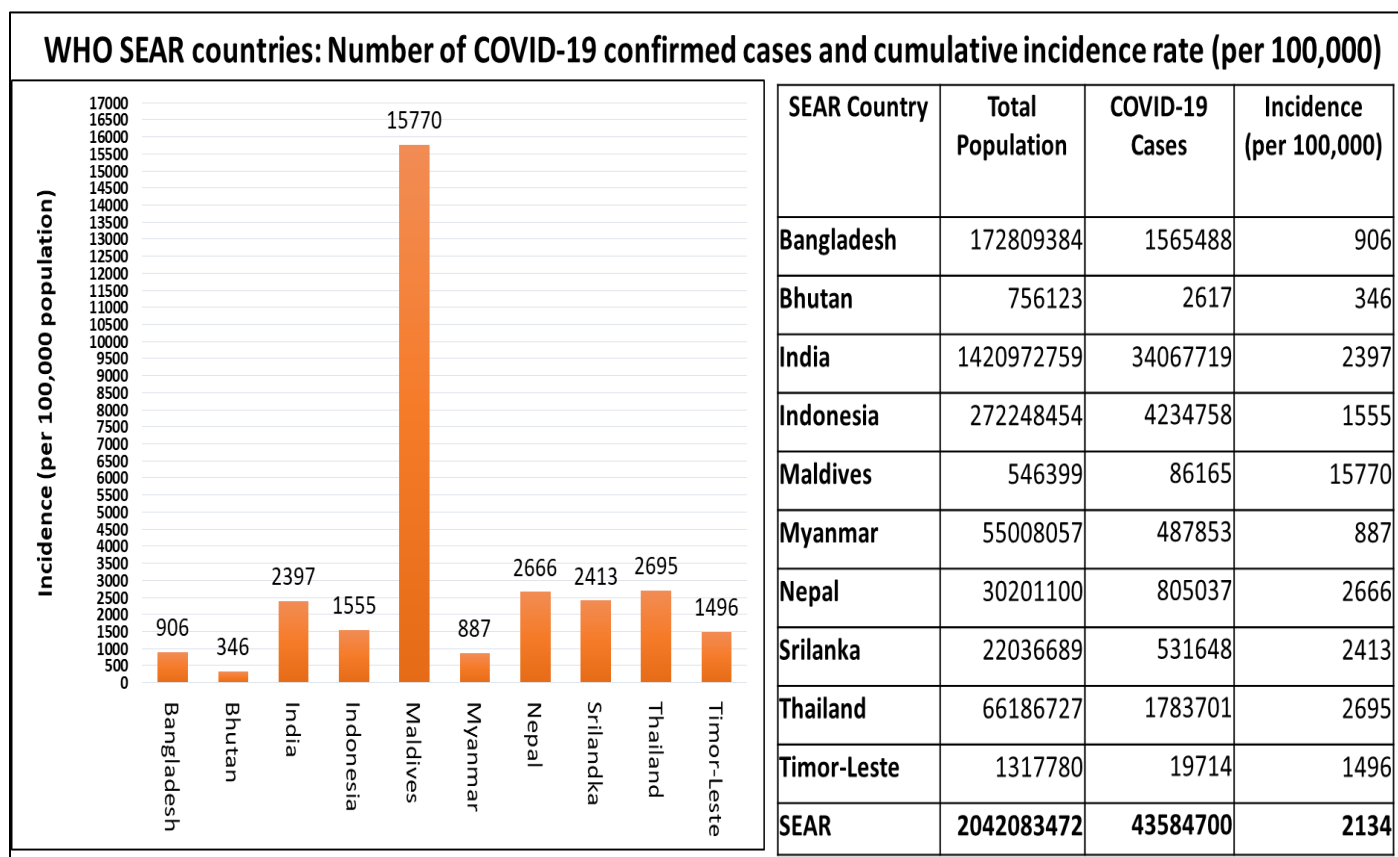
**240,239,218 confirmed cases  
4,892,690 deaths**

### NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 18 October 2021, 07:00:00 hours, a total of 805,037 (18.6%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 4,320,824 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 93,362 (14.7%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 631,260 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- Since 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate for EPI Week 41 ranged from 6.6% (Bagmati Province) to 44.3% (Karnali Province). The national RT-PCR test positivity rate stands at 8.7%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (477,713/805,037) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (372,248/477,713) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

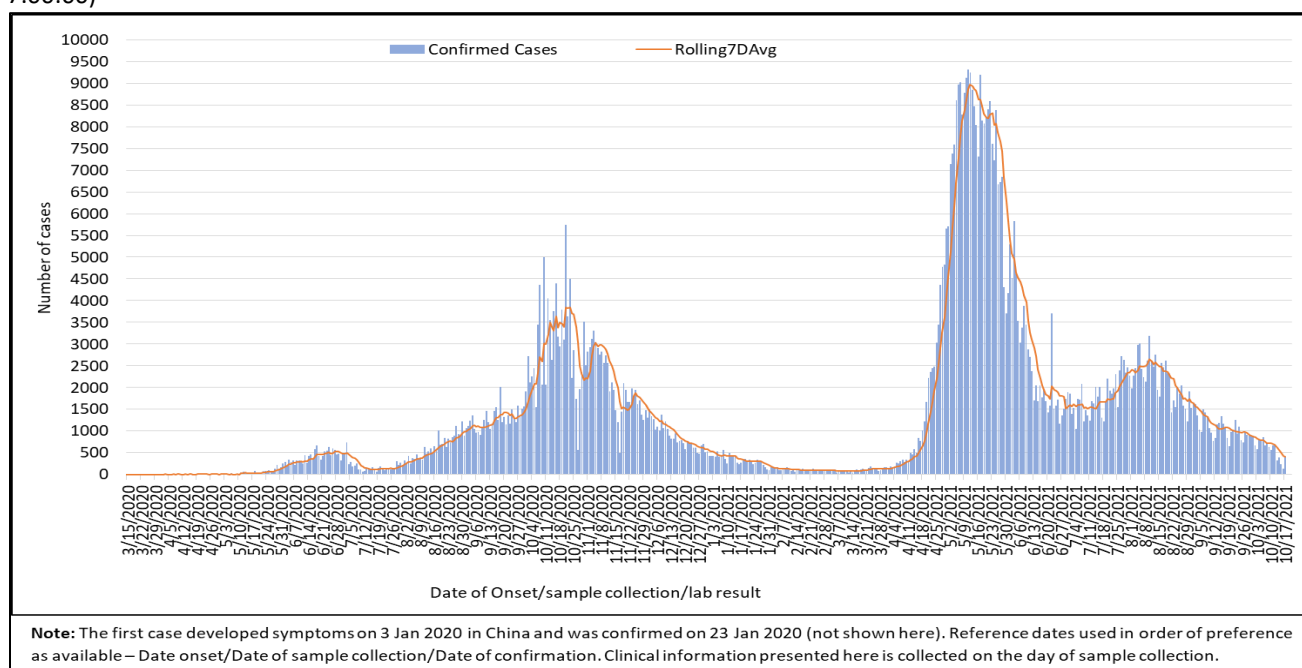
- National Influenza Surveillance
  - Influenza tests were withheld during EPI-week 41 (11-17 October 2021) due to the national festival of Dashain. Influenza positive cases will be reported retrospectively for EPI week 42.
- From 4 January until 17 October, 2021:
  - A total of 1022 samples tested positive for Influenza (599 Influenza A/H3, 185 Influenza B Victoria, 1 Co-Infection of Influenza A/H3 and Influenza B Victoria, 4 Co-Infection of Influenza A/H3 and Influenza B, 2 Co-Infection of COVID-19 and Influenza B Victoria, 2 Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09, 229 Influenza B Un-subtyped) from 5118 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
  - Similarly, 283 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1326 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)** (Data as of 03 October 2021; [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#))



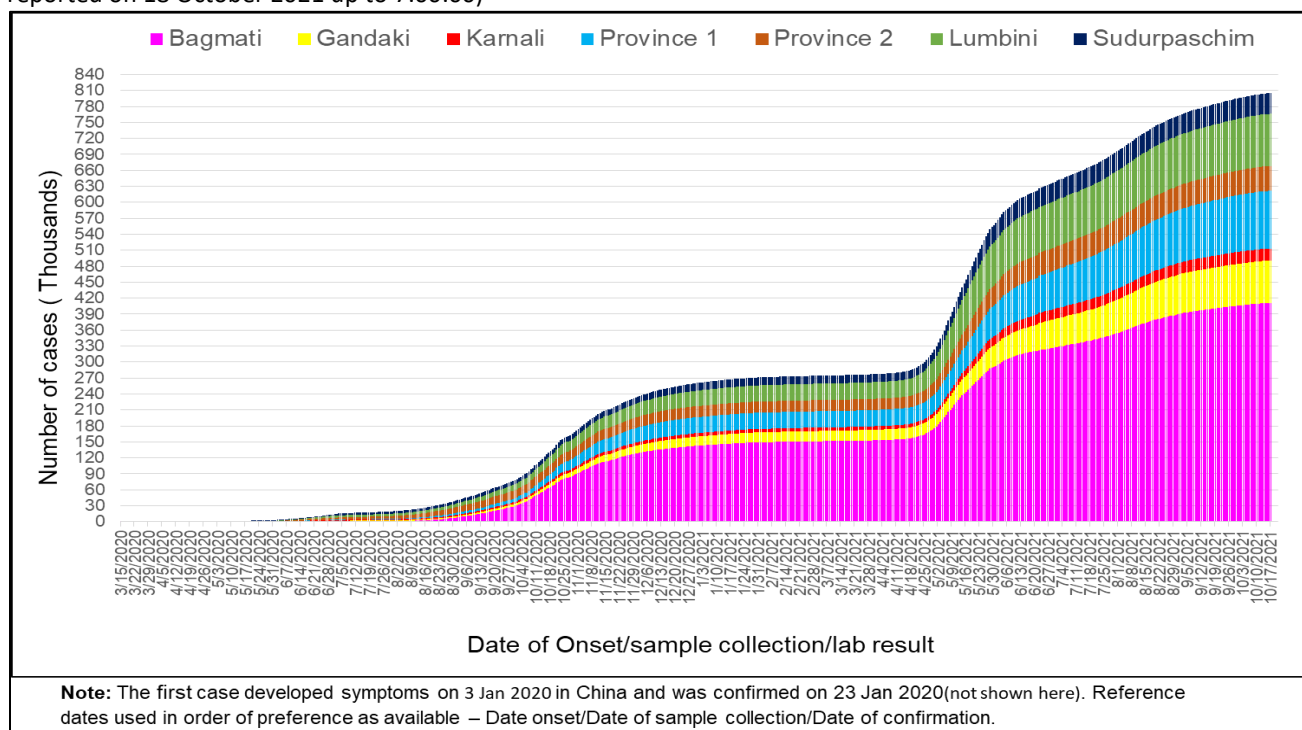
<sup>1</sup> These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

**Figure 2A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N = 805037)**(Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



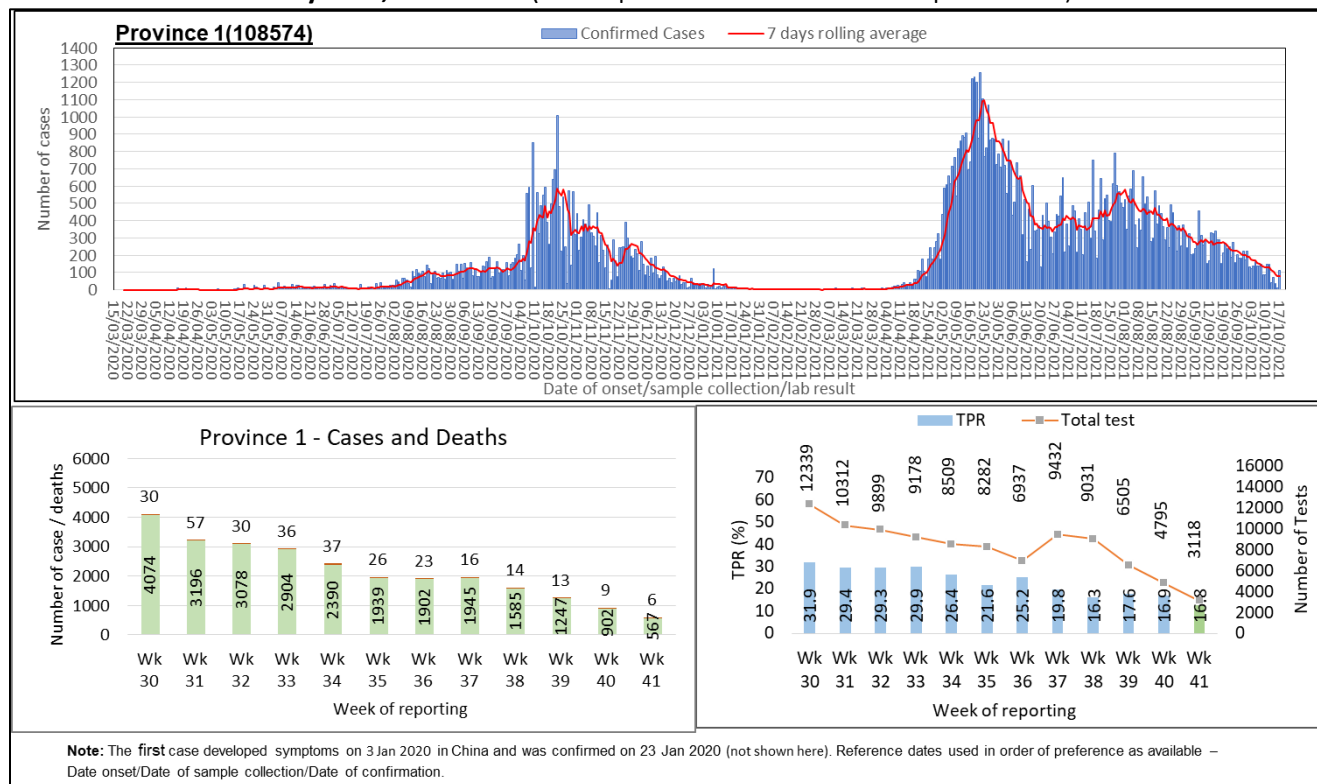
*At a national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. The total PCR tests done in Nepal on 17 October 2021 was 6966 which is 65% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.*

**Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 805037)**(Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



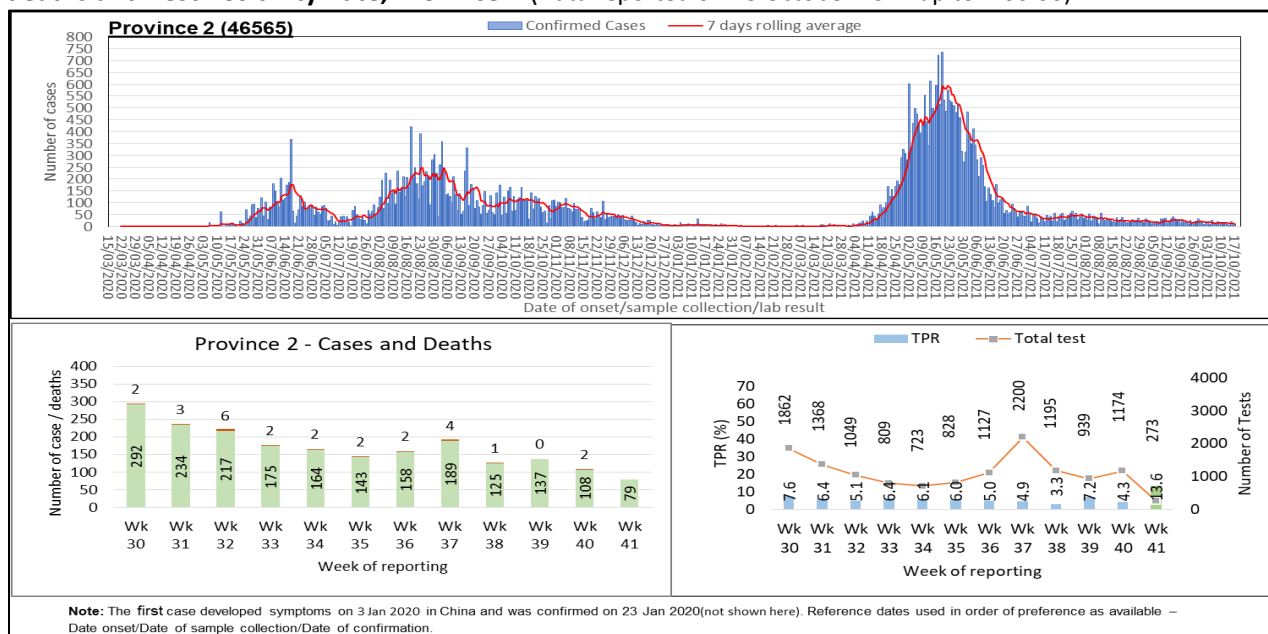
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case was confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

**Figure 2C1: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Province 1 (Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



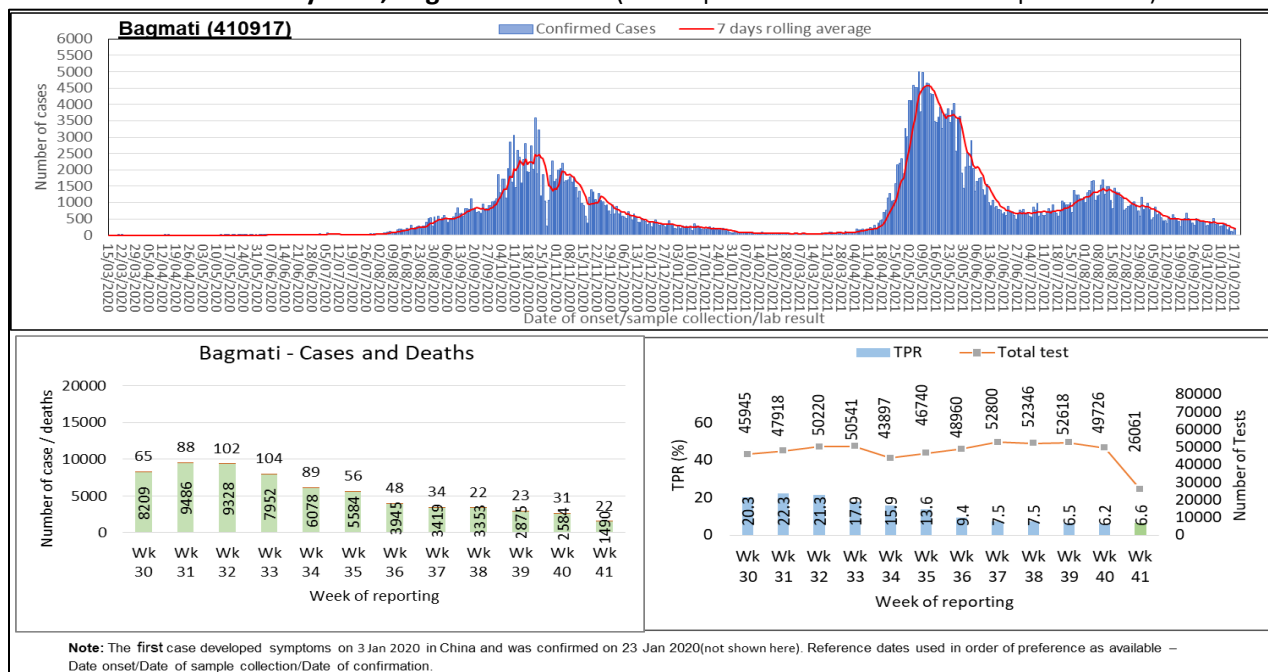
There were 567 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases have been continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 37% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 6 deaths reported in the past week, 33% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 16.8% in the past week. A total of 3118 tests were performed in the past week, 35% less than that of the previous week.

**Figure 2C2: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Province 2 (Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



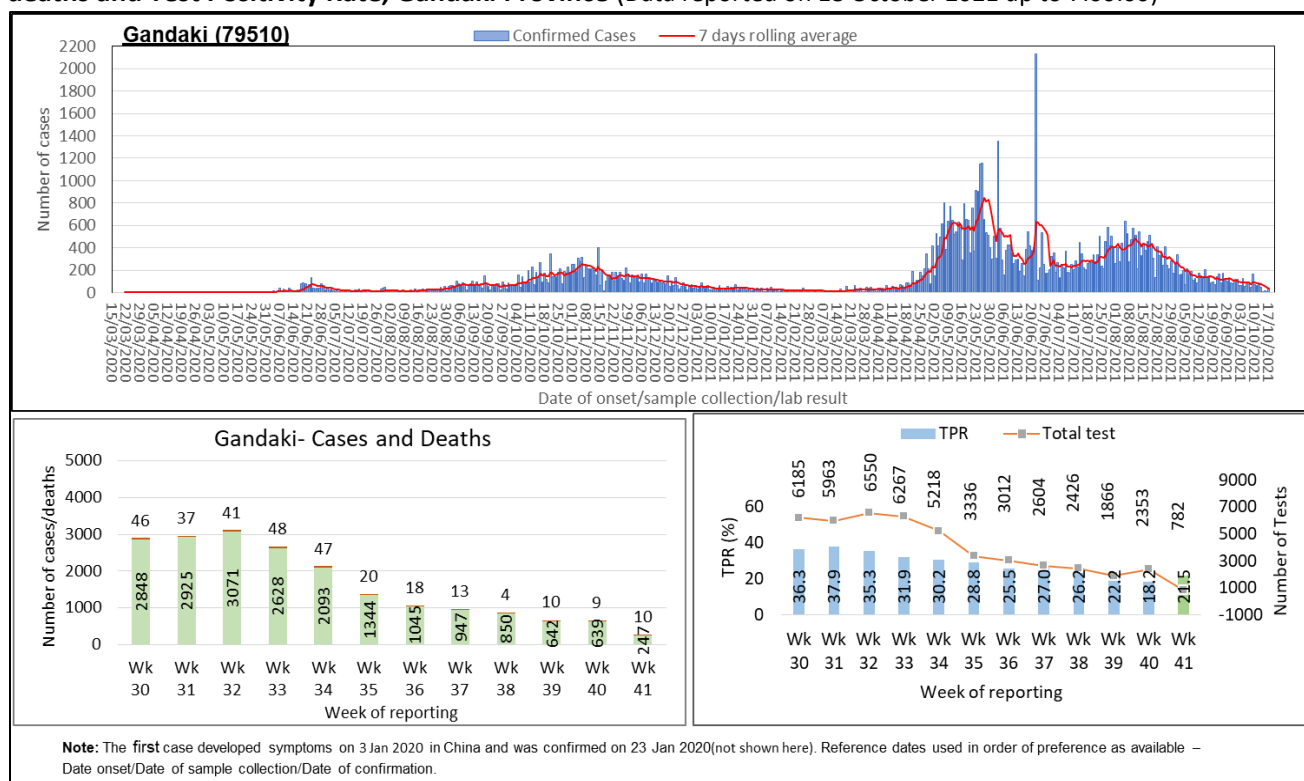
There were 79 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases have been continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 27% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were no deaths reported in the past week, 100% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 increased to 13.6% in the past week. A total of 273 tests were performed in the past week, 77% less than that of the previous week.

**Figure 2C3: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Bagmati Province (Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



In Bagmati Province, 1490 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases have been continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 42% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 22 deaths reported in the past week, 29% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 6.6% in the past week. A total of 26,061 tests were performed in the past week, 48% less than that of the previous week.

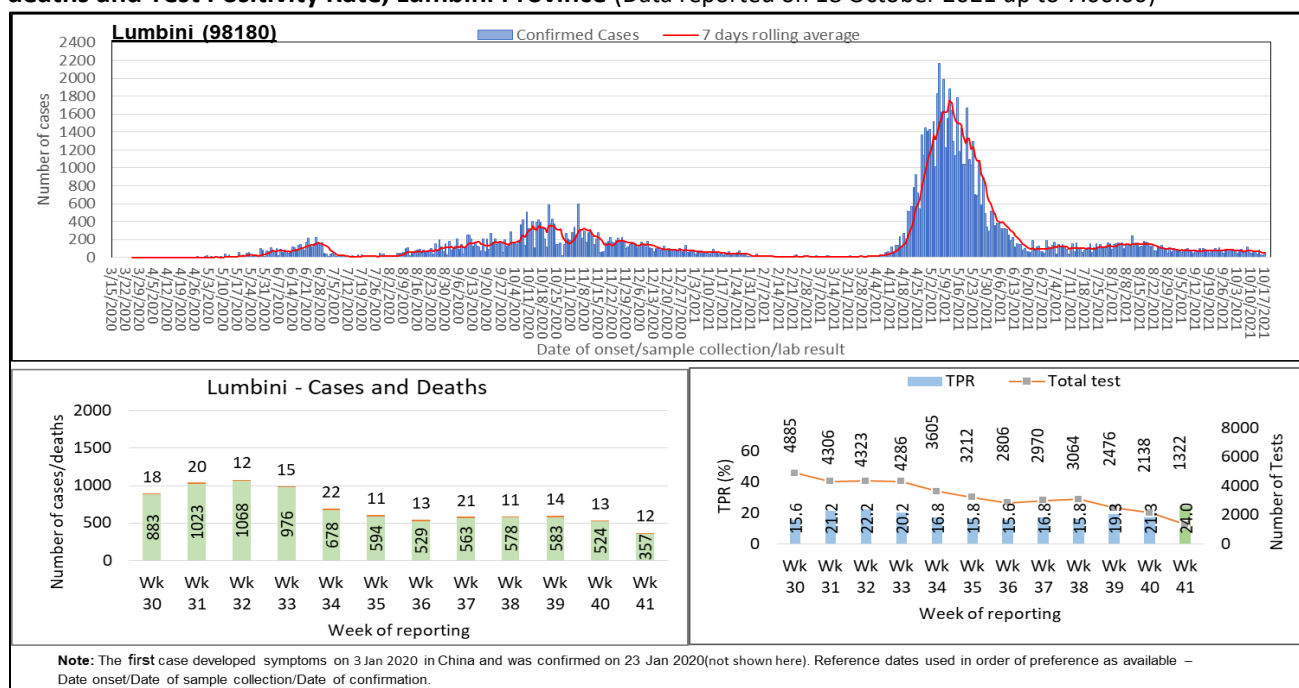
**Figure 2C4: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Gandaki Province (Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



In Gandaki Province, 247 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 21, new cases have been continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 61% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 10 deaths reported in the past week, 11% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 21.5% in the past week. A total of 782 tests were performed in the past week, 67% less than that of the previous week.

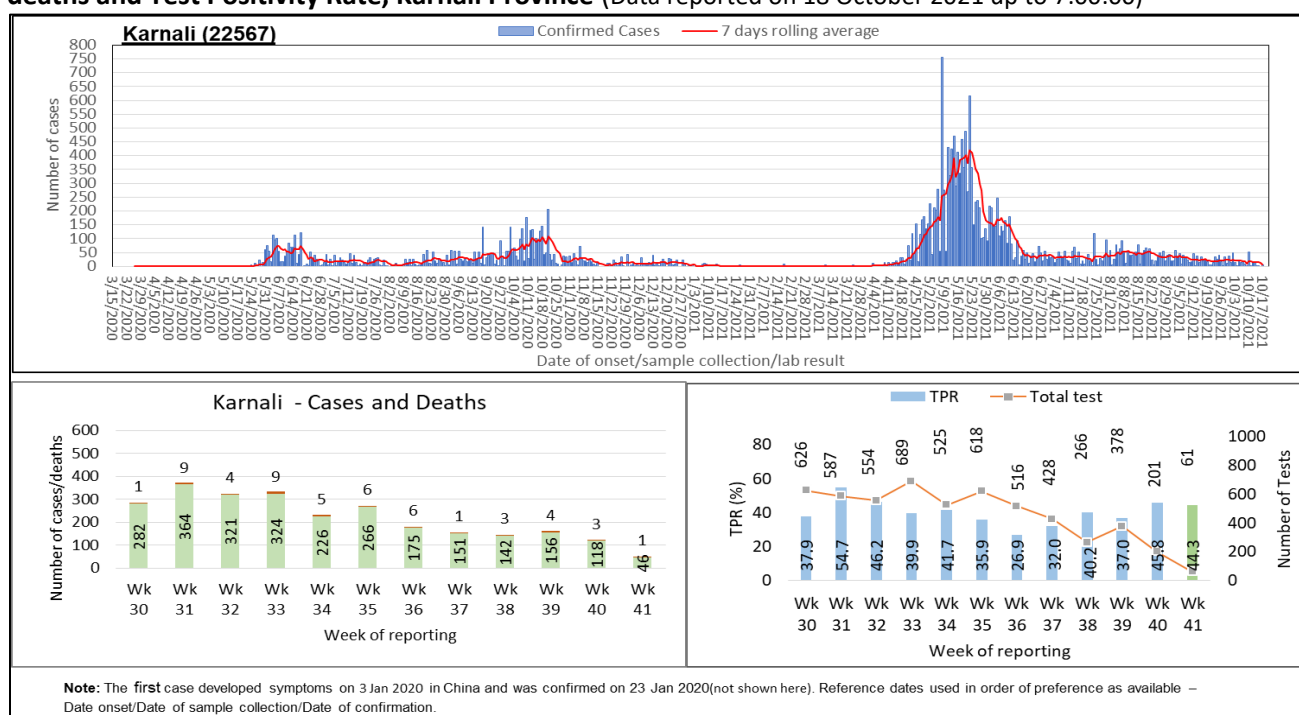


**Figure 2C5: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Lumbini Province (Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



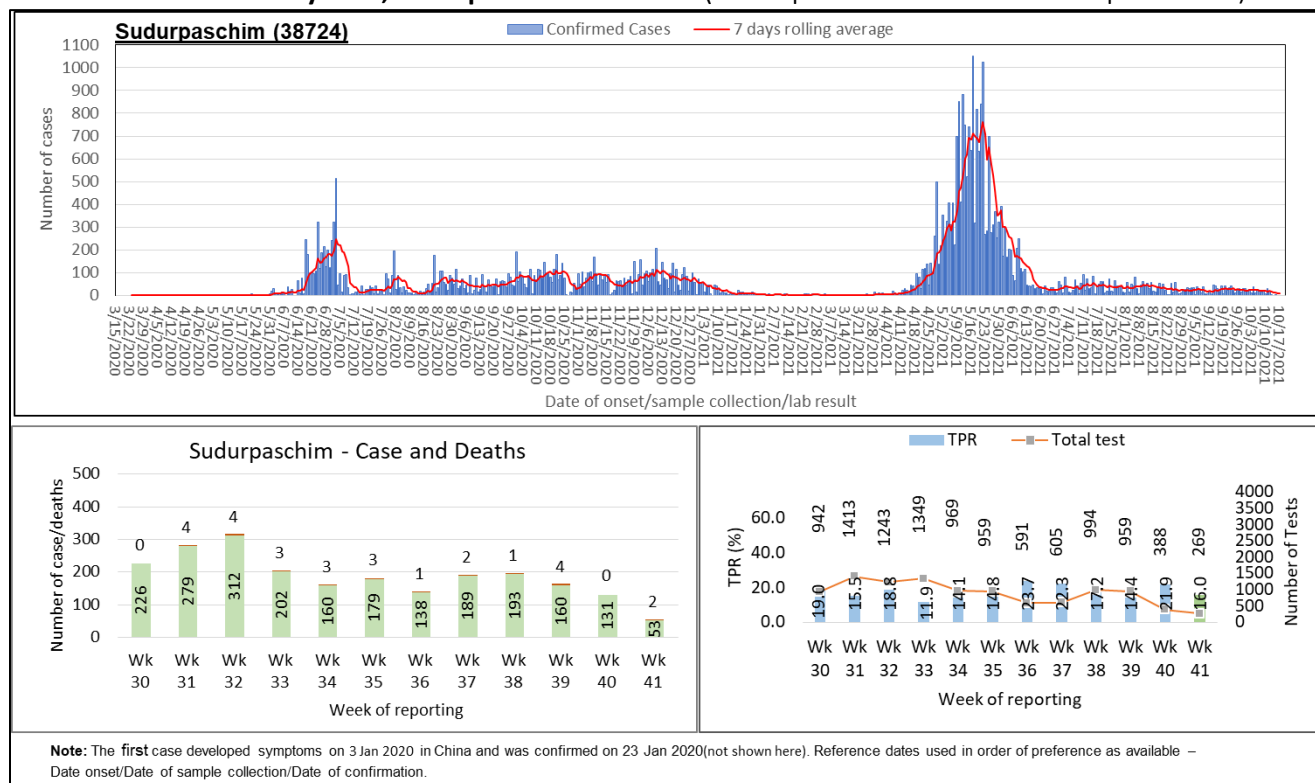
Lumbini Province reported 357 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases have been continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 32% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 12 deaths reported in the past week, 8% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 24.0% in the past week. A total of 1322 tests were performed in the past week, 38% less than that of the previous week.

**Figure 2C6: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Karnali Province (Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



In Karnali Province, 46 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases have been continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 61% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 67% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali decreased to 44.3% in the past week. A total of 61 tests were performed in the past week, 70% less than that of the previous week.

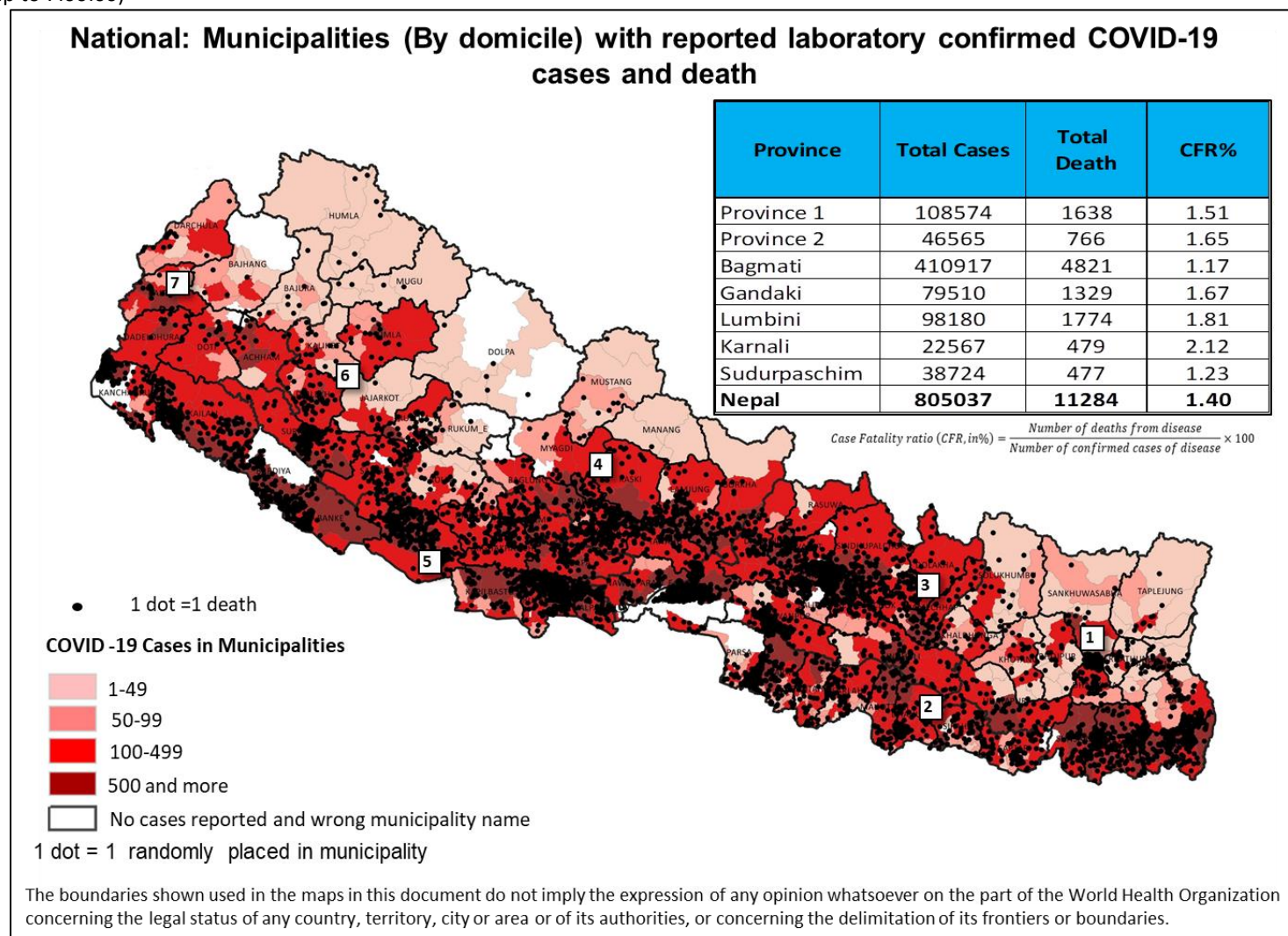
**Figure 2C7: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Sudurpashchim Province** (Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



In Sudurpashchim Province, 53 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases have been continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 60% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, an increase from no deaths in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim decreased to 16.0% in the past week. A total of 269 tests were performed in the past week, 31% less than that in the previous week.



**Figure 3: National: Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 805037)**(Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



*Cases and deaths have been reported in high numbers from Bagmati Province, mostly from Kathmandu Valley area. The overall case fatality ratio (CFR) of Nepal is 1.4%. However, it is relatively high in Karnali Province with 2.1% and Lumbini Province with 1.8%.*

**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.** (Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 07:00:00)

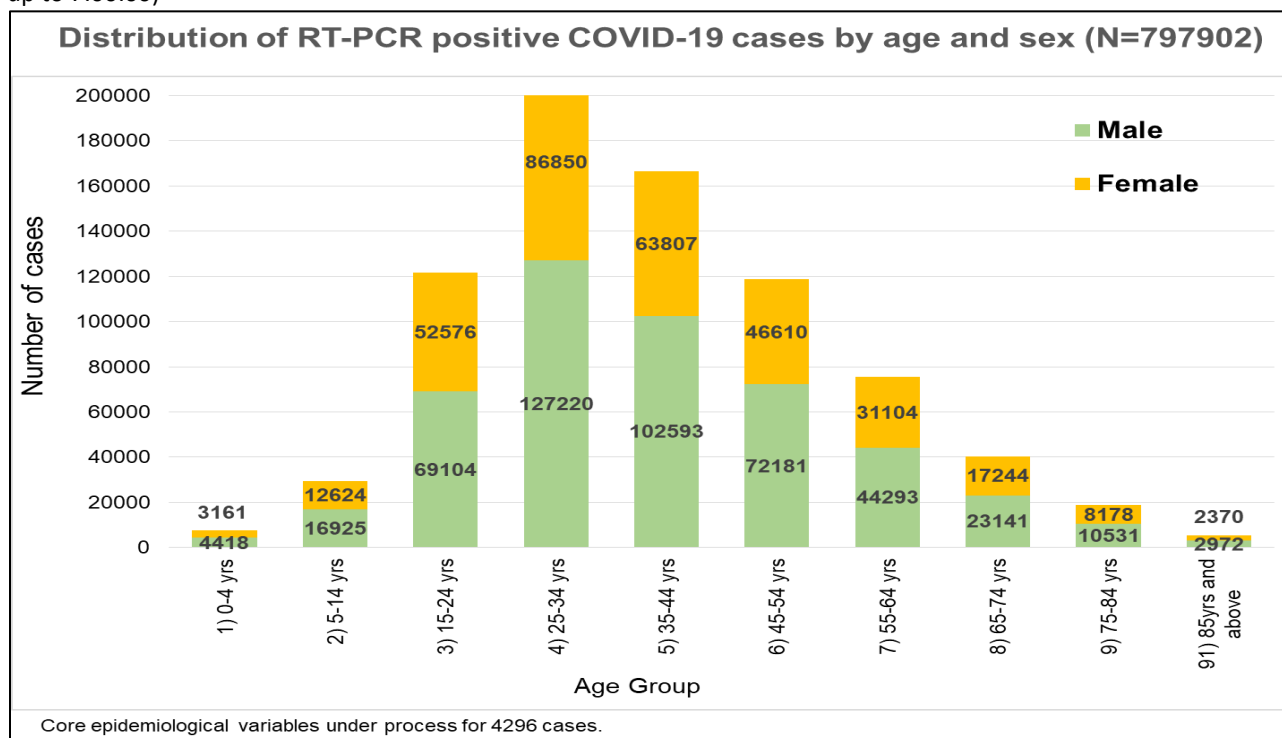
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days RT-PCR test	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days	% of total confirmed cumulative cases in last 14 days	Total Deaths in last 14 days
Province 1	108574	25424	133998	15.1	1638	Community transmission	372	1591	1963	18.7	15
Province 2	46565	487	47052	5.3	766	Community transmission	31	206	237	2.3	2
Bagmati	410917	19723	430640	48.5	4821	Community transmission	404	4369	4773	45.5	53
Gandaki	79510	16564	96074	10.8	1329	Community transmission	320	948	1268	12.1	19
Lumbini	98180	14876	113056	12.7	1774	Community transmission	688	932	1620	15.5	25
Karnali	22567	3141	25708	2.9	479	Community transmission	109	177	286	2.7	4
Sudurpashchim	38724	2407	41131	4.6	477	Community transmission	139	196	335	3.2	2
<b>National Total</b>	<b>805037</b>	<b>82622*</b>	<b>887659</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11284</b>	<b>Community transmission</b>	<b>2063</b>	<b>8419</b>	<b>10482</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>

*\*Total reported in HEOC Sitrep as of 17 October 93362 ; but IMU reported 82622*

Notes:

1. The source for case data used in this update is from RT- PCR test positivity reported by laboratories from various locations across Nepal, as shared by HEOC Sitrep and IMU/IHIMS.
2. Case data is screened and cleaned by our data team for double entry, wrong entry and manual errors such as a city's name in place of districts, district name in place of province, etc.
3. Whereas the test positivity rate is calculated based on the test positivity reported in Sitrep for RT-PCR which may or may not be scrutinized or cleaned the same way and mark the cases based on location of the laboratories rather than place of residence.

**Figure 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 800739)**(Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



*Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males. The incidence of cases is higher in the economically productive age group (15-54 years) for both males and females.*

**Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths\* in COVID-19 confirmed cases (N = 805037)**(Data reported on 18 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4 yrs	7609	16	20	13	0.47
5-14 yrs	29641	13	7	10	0.07
15-24 yrs	122036	87	84	61	0.14
25-34 yrs	214719	363	251	133	0.29
35-44 yrs	166959	843	431	280	0.76
45-54 yrs	119280	1330	612	519	1.63
55-64 yrs	75696	1607	747	712	3.11
65-74 yrs	40574	1553	825	867	5.86
75-84 yrs	18837	1132	604	668	9.22
85+ yrs	5388	471	263	235	13.62
Unknown	4298	18	7	10	0.58
<b>National</b>	<b>805037</b>	<b>7433</b>	<b>3851</b>	<b>3508</b>	<b>1.40</b>

$$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$$

COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.

*A total of 11,284 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,433 (65.9%) were males and 3,851 (34.1%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,508 persons (31.1%) had at least one known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, the CFR progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 5.9% to 13.6%.*

## **PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

### **What are the Government of Nepal (GoN) & the Ministry of Health & Population (MoHP) doing?**

- COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Update
  - COVID-19 vaccination campaign is going simultaneously in all provinces for the first, and second doses of AstraZeneca and Sinopharm to specific target group as specified by MoHP and as per National Deployment and Vaccination Plan.
  - Till now, Nepal has received 17,758,710 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources.
  - A total of 14,857,561 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
  - As of 18 October 2021 09:30AM, among the total population aged 18 years and above: 42.2% (8,415,067) have received the first dose while 32.5% (6,470,195) have received the full dose.
- Government of Nepal is receiving medical equipment, supplies and health commodities from many countries and donor agencies. Within the reporting time frame, the following have provided logistics support:
  - One Heart Worldwide handed 20,000 doses of Monoclonal Antibody Combination Therapies (Bamlanivimab and Etesevimab) to MoHP which was supported by Direct Relief, USA to help in treatment of COVID-19 patients in Nepal.

### **What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?**

#### ***Laboratory Diagnosis***

- WHO Nepal has been providing technical support to National Public Health Laboratories (NPHL) in the following activities:
  - Monitoring the quality standard of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP). A total of 4 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in NQAP this week. Out of 4 participating laboratories, the result of 3 designated laboratories was ≥90% concordant and 1 laboratory was 80% concordant.
- National Influenza Surveillance
  - Influenza tests were withheld during EPID-week 41 (11-17 October 2021) due to the national festival of Dashain. Influenza positive cases will be reported retrospectively for EPI week 42.

### **Technical Planning and Operations**

- WHO Nepal is providing technical and financial support to the National Health Training Center (NHTC) for capacity building training of service providers (doctors and nurses). This training program is being organized in coordination with Nepal Pediatric Society (NEPAS) for the provincial-level Pediatric Essential Critical Care Training PECCT service providers' training. The training will be conducted at Province 2 from 22 - 25 October 2021, from 29 October- 1 November 2021 at Lumbini Province and from 14 - 17 November 2021 at Gandaki Province. Each batch of training will consist of 16 participants.

### **Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- WHO Nepal's support to the National Health Education Information and Communication Center (NHEICC) continued this week by providing risk communication expertise through staff embedded at the NHEICC.
- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, and published:

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
54	Mixed and fractional vaccine doses	Maithili	OneDrive(downloadable <a href="#">link</a> ); Facebook <a href="#">link</a> ; YouTube <a href="#">link</a>

- Science in 5 podcast series released on Soundcloud (link [here](#)) with details below:

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
3	Safe festival celebrations during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Nepali	The news was shared via Facebook (link <a href="#">here</a> ) and Twitter (link <a href="#">here</a> ). The teaser was also shared via Facebook (link <a href="#">here</a> ) and Twitter (link <a href="#">here</a> ).

- A message by the WHO Representative to Nepal on safe festival celebrations during the COVID-19 pandemic was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- A web story on the National Workshop on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) was shared via the WHO, Country Office for Nepal, website (link [here](#)). The three-day national workshop on RCCE was organized by MoHP with support from WHO, Country Office for Nepal. MoHP officials, including the Chief Specialist, the Chief of Health Coordination Division, and the Directors of National Health Education Information and Communication Center (NHEICC) and Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) were in attendance along with representatives from the provinces.
- The following documents were uploaded on ReliefWeb (link [here](#)):
  - Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring,
  - Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard, and
  - The latest Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update
- Infographics on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:

- Importance of public health and social measures even during festivals,
- Importance of public health and social measures against COVID-19,
- Mental health and COVID-19,
- Harmful use of alcohol and smoking and COVID-19, and
- Global Handwashing Day and COVID-19.

### **What are the health clusters partners doing?**

- Provincial Ministries for health and Provincial Health Directorate Offices are organizing Provincial Health Cluster Coordination meeting for COVID-19 response, as and when required.
- UNICEF and WHO are providing following support for COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with External Development Partners (EDPs).
  - Micro planning including financing for the procurement of vaccination
  - Training/orientations – To health personnel at various level, local governments
  - Logistics – Vehicle, cold chain boxes, delivery of vaccines, transportation of beneficiaries to the vaccination site
  - Information Technology – Registration, information communication, data management
  - Risk communication and community engagement – Production and dissemination of messages, public awareness campaign
  - Technical Assistance
- All members of the Health Cluster are advocating swift supply of vaccines to Nepal through available channels.
- Health partners are continuing their technical, operational, and logistics support for COVID responses to health-related offices and institutions throughout the country.
- Health Cluster Secretariat has been supporting health cluster lead in 3W mapping of partners' support and is being disseminated through the Health Emergency Operation Center's website ( <https://heoc.mohp.gov.np/update-on-novel-corona-virus-covid-19/> ).
- COVID-19 consultation is being provided continuously by specialist teams through tele-medicine services.

### **WHO's STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE- [link here](#) RECOMMENDATION AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC**

- [Protect yourself](#)
- [Questions and answers](#)
- [Travel advice](#)
- [EPI-WIN](#): tailored information for individuals, organizations and communities

### **USEFUL LINKS**

- MoHP COVID-19 official portal is available [here](#).



- Nepal COVID-19 regular updates and resources are available [here](#)
- For COVID-19 updates from the WHO South-East Asia Region Office, please visit [here](#).
- For information regarding coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic from WHO, please visit [here](#)
- Please visit this [site](#) for all technical guidance from WHO.
- Online courses on COVID-19 from WHO can be found [here](#)
- WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard can be found [here](#)
- Visit the WHO Nepal [Facebook page](#) and webpage on COVID-19 [here](#)

## CONTACT DETAILS

### **WHO Representative**

Dr Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav  
WHO Representative to the  
Government of Nepal  
Email: [pandavr@who.int](mailto:pandavr@who.int)

### **Health Cluster Co-lead**

Dr Sunoor Verma  
Pillar Lead – Partner Coordination  
WHO Country Office for Nepal  
COVID-19 Response IMS  
Email: [sverma@who.int](mailto:sverma@who.int)

### **WHO Incident Manager**

Dr Allison Gocotano  
Team Leader - WHO Health  
Emergencies Program (WHE)  
WHO Country Office for Nepal  
Email: [gocotanoa@who.int](mailto:gocotanoa@who.int)

### **Communication/Media Focal Point**

Ms Tsering Dolkar Gurung  
Media, Communication and Public  
Information Officer  
WHO Country Office for Nepal  
Email: [gurungt@who.int](mailto:gurungt@who.int)